

DIVINE PARADOX | Life in God's Kingdom

WEEK 6 - "Marks of Kingdom People (Part 1)"

"Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

"Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied."

- Matthew 5:1-6

What Did Jesus Come to Do?

From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

- Matthew 4:17

- What does it mean that the Kingdom is "at hand"? How has the Kingdom been inaugurated by Jesus?
- What does it look like to create a "subversive culture" where God's kingdom is being revealed?

The Sermon on the Mount and the Beatitudes

The sermon on the mount is Jesus' description of what it looks like to live as a citizen of the Kingdom.

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

-Matthew 5:3

- What does Jesus mean by "poor in spirit?"
- On what basis do you view your relationship/standing with God? Is it based on merit (i.e. "I'm a good person")?

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted."

-Matthew 5:4



- How do you typically deal with mourning? Where do you “default” when you are seeking comfort?
- Kingdom people experience God’s comfort through 1) the Holy Spirit 2) the community of believers and 3) our future hope. Can you point to instances in your life where one or all of these things have provided you comfort?

"Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth."
 -Matthew 5:5

- How did Jesus embody meekness by the example of His life?
- Based on your experience, are the Christians around you known for a Christ-centered meekness (“strength under control”)? Or are they known for the opposite (“self-willed, over zealous, and aggressive”)?
- What are YOU known for?

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied."
 -Matthew 5:6

- Do you actually desire righteousness in the innermost parts of your being?
- The mark of a person who longs for the Kingdom of God knows that we are only truly satisfied when God’s righteousness is realized. Where does this righteousness come from? How is it brought about?

Scripture for further study:

- Revelation 21:3-4
- 2 Corinthians 1:3-11
- Psalm 42:1-2
- Philippians 3:9

